

Application No.: 10/676188

Case No.: 58976US002

REMARKS

Claims 3 to 5 are pending in the present application.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Planeta et al. (US 6,013,212) in view of Scott (US 3,052,395).

Planeta et al., is directed to a method for controlling the lateral wandering of a flattened tubular plastic film as it passes over a system of rollers, including two air rollers 18 and 22, which function as turning bars. In the system of Planeta et al., a photo-electric sensor 30 senses the lateral position of an edge of the flattened tubular film between the second turning bar 22 and an exit roller. If the edge of the flattened film wanders laterally, this is detected by a sensor 30, which sends a signal to a motor which moves the turning bar 22 about a vertical axis 28 to cause the angular orientation of the second turning bar 22 to be slightly advanced or slightly retarded with respect to the angular position of the first turning bar 18. (See Planeta et al., at Column 2, lines 26-40.)

Scott discloses a roller apparatus having a plurality of surface sections transversely movable in a plane substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the roller surface. A spring guides the movement of the movable sections along the surface of the roller.

The office action states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Planeta et al. with the slat rollers of Scott to provide a more stable surface for inverting webs.

The applicants respectfully submit that Planeta et al. and Scott are not properly combinable, and even if they were, the combination would not result in the claimed invention.

The clear focus of Planeta is the control of lateral movement of a web by turning the position of air rollers about a vertical axis in response to a sensor-detected movement of the web. One skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine the rotatable air-rollers of Planeta with the stationary slat rollers described in Scott, as the resultant combination would be slat rollers which are rotatable about a vertical axis. Such a configuration would be impractical to operate as

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the combination of the movement of the slats and rotation of the roller about a vertical axis would make precise control of the system difficult.

Further, nothing in the disclosure of Planeta or Scott suggests the desirability of the combination. The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. (See MPEP 2143.01).

Claims 3 – 5 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Planeta et al. (US 6,013,212) in view of Robertson et al. (US 3,095,131).

Planeta et al. discloses a method for controlling the lateral wandering of a web, as described above. Robertson et al. discloses an apparatus and method of guiding a web utilizing a slat roller having a pair of cam tracks to guide transversely movable sliding bars on the roller.

Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Planeta et al. with Roberson. Further, as argued above, Planeta contains no teaching or suggestion to combine teachings.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. Applicants file concurrently herewith, a notice of appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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